

Remarks

Applicants respectfully request that the above amendments be entered after final as they place the claims in better form for allowance.

Reconsideration of this Application is respectfully requested.

Upon entry of the foregoing amendment, claims 35, 36, 42, 45 and 46 are pending in the application, with 35 and 42 being the independent claims. Claim 47 is sought to be cancelled without prejudice to or disclaimer of the subject matter therein.

Based on the above amendment and the following remarks, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider all outstanding objections and rejections and that they be withdrawn.

Obviousness-type Double Patenting

The Examiner has rejected claim 42 under the judicially-created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 1-6 of U.S. Patent No. 6,136,595 (Paper No. 20040202, page 3). Applicants submit herewith a terminal disclaimer to obviate the double patenting rejection over claims 1-6 of U.S. Patent No. 6, 136, 595. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner withdraw the rejection.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph (indefiniteness)

The Examiner has rejected claim 47 under 35. U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, for allegedly "failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention." (Paper No. 20040202, page 2). Solely in an

effort to expedite prosecution, and without acquiescence in the propriety of the rejection, Applicants have canceled claim 47. Thus, the rejection is moot and Applicants respectfully request that it be withdrawn.

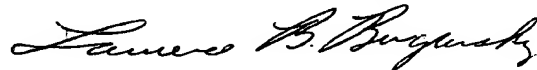
Conclusion

All of the stated grounds of objection and rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. Applicants therefore respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider all presently outstanding objections and rejections and that they be withdrawn. Applicants believe that a full and complete reply has been made to the outstanding Office Action and, as such, the present application is in condition for allowance. If the Examiner believes, for any reason, that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number provided.

Prompt and favorable consideration of this Amendment and Reply is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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